

# Interlocked Series

Lesson #10.2

December 19, 2023

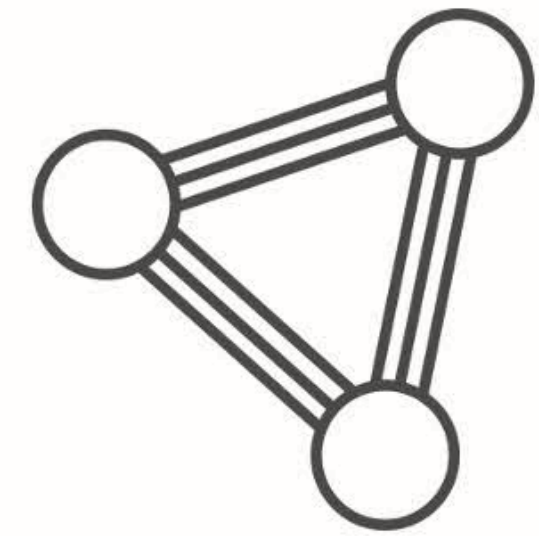
Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

© 2023, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

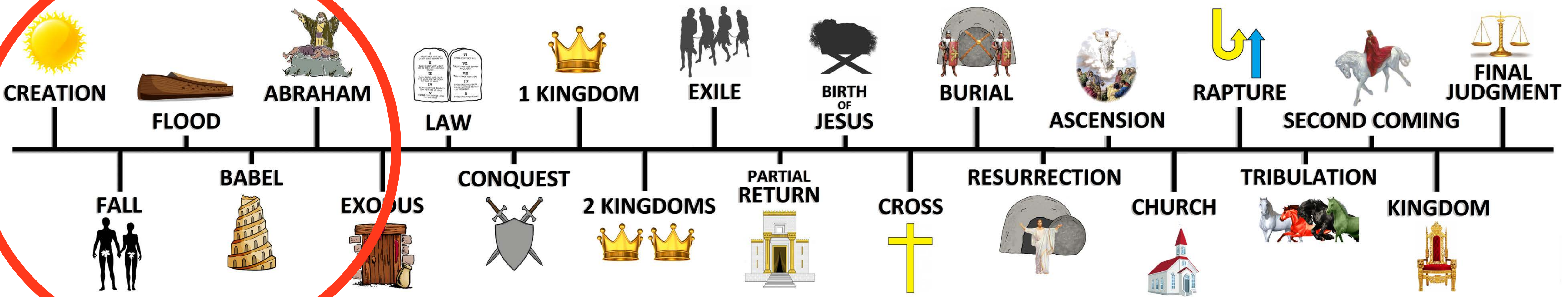
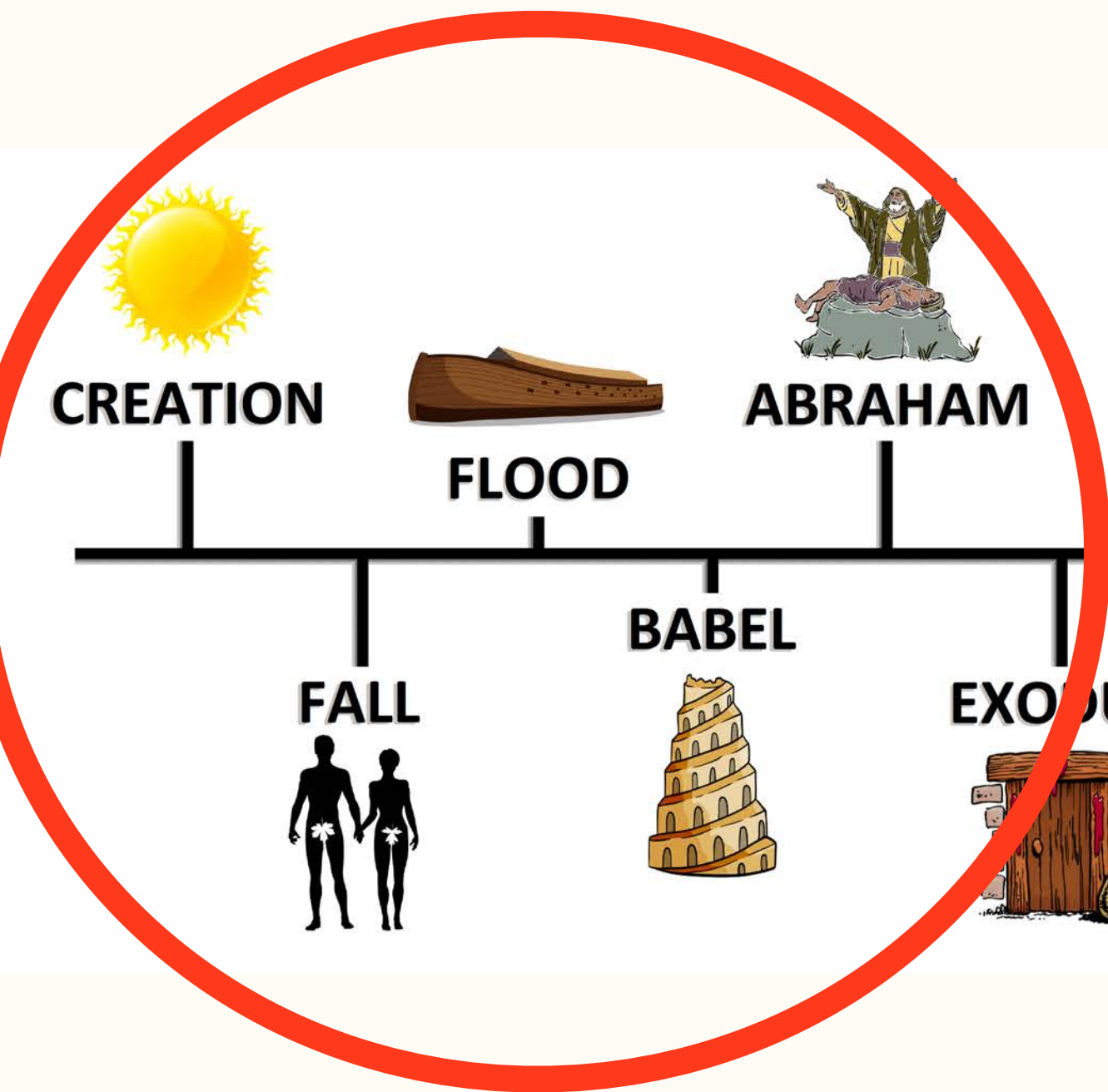
# **Lesson 10.2: The Justification of Abram Before God**

INTERLOCKED



**Lesson 10: Abraham: A Picture of How to be  
Right with God!**

**Lesson 10: The Justification of Abram**



# The Call of Abraham

## Key Concept:

We are declared Righteous, we are not made righteous.

God *imputes* righteousness. He does not *impart* righteousness.

Rom. 5:19, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

καθίστημι *kathistēmi*  
3 plur AORIST pass indic  
to make

καθίστημι *kathistēmi*  
3 plur FUTURE pass indic  
to make

**Rom. 5:18, “Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in declaration of righteousness for life.” [RD]**

**δικαίωσις *dikaiōsis***

**fem sing acc**

**justification, to declare just,**

**to declare righteous**

# **The Call of Abraham**

**Last time: Directed toward teachers**

**Previously: How did Abraham respond to God's call?**

**Faith: How were people justified before the Cross?  
How would Abraham know about God's promise  
of salvation?  
On what basis was Abraham justified?**

**Job 25:4, “How then can man be righteous before God?”**

**Justification:** God declared Abraham righteous as the pattern for how everyone is justified.



- 1. Faith: Abraham chose to believe God and that was the means for his justification.**
  - a. How did Abraham come to know about *YHWH*?**
  - b. When did Abraham first believe God's promise of salvation as it was revealed in early Genesis?**
  - c. What does it mean that Abraham believed in *YHWH*?**
  - d. What does it mean that the Lord "counted" him as righteous? (also address the issue of the NLT translation, "because" of his faith)**
- 2. Abraham, friend of God.**
- 3. Lessons from Abraham's life and God's covenant with Him.**

**Gen. 15:6, “And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” [NKJV]**

**Gen. 15:6, “Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD credited it as righteousness to him.” [NET]**

**Gen. 15:6, “And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”**

- a. How did Abraham come to know about *YHWH*?**
- b. When did Abraham first believe God’s promise of salvation as it was revealed in early Genesis?**
- c. What does it mean that Abraham believed in *YHWH*?**
- d. What does it mean that the Lord “counted” him as righteous? (also address the issue of the NLT translation, “because” of his faith)**

**a. How did Abraham come to know about *YHWH*?**

**By either observation of God's creation (Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1:19–21) or through another believer in *YHWH*, Abram learned of the Gen. 3:15 promise.**

**Psa. 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.**

**Psa. 19:2, “Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”**

**Rom. 1:19, “They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them.**

**Rom. 1:20, “For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.**

**Rom. 1:21, “Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.” [NLT]**

# **God Consciousness**

**When a person becomes old enough to begin to wonder where everything came from. Who made the stars, and the sun, moon, and earth? Is there a greater power? That is God-consciousness, the awareness there is some higher power, Supreme Being, or person greater than mankind. At this point the individual is responsible and accountable for their decision to want to know about God or reject God. This is then called the time or age of accountability. This will differ from culture to culture, family to family, and person to person.**

## Creator-Creature Distinction

1<sup>st</sup> level  
CREATOR (Yahweh)

SOVEREIGNTY

2<sup>nd</sup> level  
creature (man)

● free will

**Will the person at God-consciousness want to worship the Creator or the creation?**

**Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**Rom. 1:23, “and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”**

**Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”**



**God will always send someone to tell those who want to know more about Him. God desires all to be saved.**

**1 Tim. 2:3, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,**

**1 Tim. 2:4, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**

**b. When did Abraham first believe God's promise of salvation as it was revealed in early Genesis?**

**a. The Bible doesn't tell us.**

**b. But it was in the past, not at the time of the events in Gen. 15:1–5.**

## Two reasons:

1. The Hebrew grammar breaks the sequence of events in Gen.15:6.

Gen 15:6, “Now remember, Abram had already believed in *YHWH* and *YHWH* counted him as righteous ...”

**2. Throughout the Bible, justification salvation is always connected to the “shedding of blood,” the death of a sacrifice as payment for the penalty for sin.**

**What had already been revealed about God's plan of salvation for mankind?**

**Same answer! Not much!!**

**This verse, 15 chapters into our story, is the first time we have the word for "believe," or "counted," and "righteousness."**

**But Heb. 11:4–7 tells us that Abel, Enoch, and Noah all had faith. Thousands of people from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, including Melchizedek, all believed God's promise to Adam about salvation from sin and Satan.**

## **Before sin, God warned Adam**

**Gen. 2:17, “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

**Gen. 3:7, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings [loin cloths].”**

**Gen. 3:8, “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”**

**Gen. 3:9, “Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”**

**Gen. 3:10, “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ ”**

**But after they disobeyed God, they were unrighteous (-R), so they ran and hid. They were afraid. They were now spiritually dead, unrighteous, and separated from God.**



**Gen. 3:15, “ ‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.’ ”**

**Gen. 3:21, “Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”**

**Heb. 9:22b, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”**

**Gen. 4:4, “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,”**

**Heb. 11:4, “It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering testified that he was declared righteous, and God showed His approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.” [RD]**

**Conclusion: Abraham's faith was in response to God's gracious provision of a solution to the problem of a lack of righteousness, by justification through faith in the promise of a future provision of a Savior who would have victory over sin and Satan.**

### c. What does it mean that Abraham believed in *YHWH*?

For Abraham that object of faith for justification must have been one that conforms to the rest of what Scripture teaches—a blood sacrifice in the Old Testament that pictured the future death of the promised Savior on the Cross.



**d. What does it mean that the Lord “counted” him as righteous?**



**Isa. 59:2, “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”**

**Isa. 64:6, “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”**

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. (Genesis 15:6)

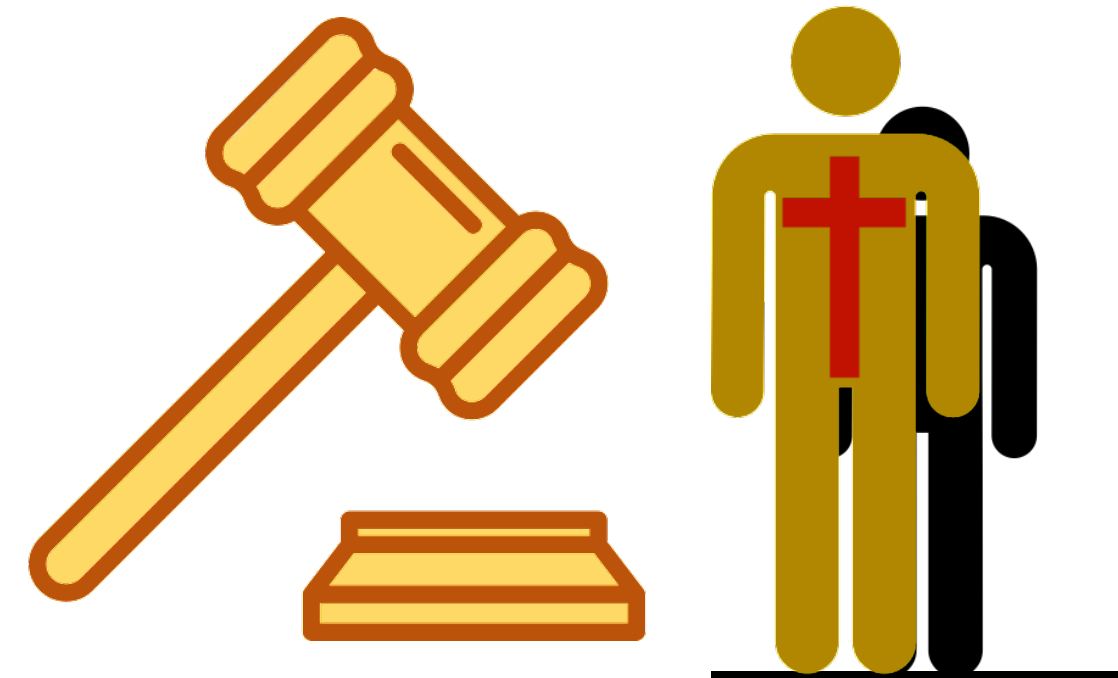
In a financial sense:  
“credited”/“deposited”



Abraham's account

God credited/deposited Jesus' perfect righteousness into Abraham's account.

In a legal sense:  
“make a judgment”/“declared”



Abraham

God, the perfect righteous Judge, made a judgment in His heavenly courtroom and declared that Abraham was righteous because God was applying Jesus' perfect life onto Abraham.

God's decision on this is final and cannot be undone.

**A. Jesus died in mankind's place, so that people do not need to die the eternal death. With no sin of His own, Jesus could die as a sufficient substitute in place of all mankind, fully satisfying sin's death penalty.**

**1 Pet. 2:24, “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”**

**Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the certificate of debt from our lack of righteousness that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” [RD expanded translation]**

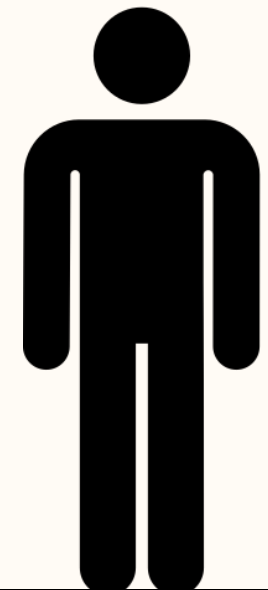
# How can a person move from “unrighteous” to “righteous”?

man: unrighteous

man: righteous

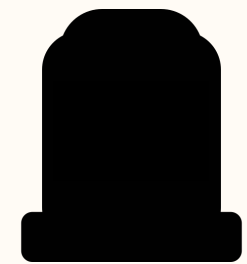
-R

+R



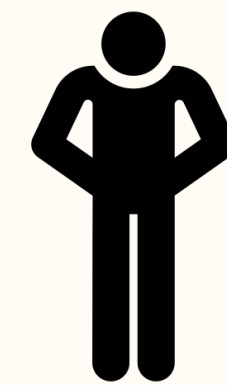
Abraham

## Needs a death to pay for sin



The penalty for sin is death.  
Paying the penalty does not provide righteousness.

## Needs to live a perfect life by God's standards



To be right with God an absolutely perfect, obedient, righteous life must have been lived.

**Jesus lived a perfect life and God imputed (or credited) His righteous life to mankind's account.**

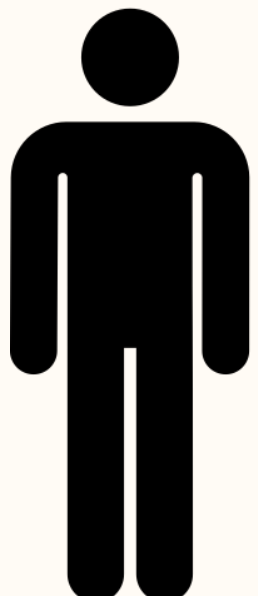
What Jesus did to bring man from “unrighteous” to “righteous”.

man: unrighteous

man: righteous

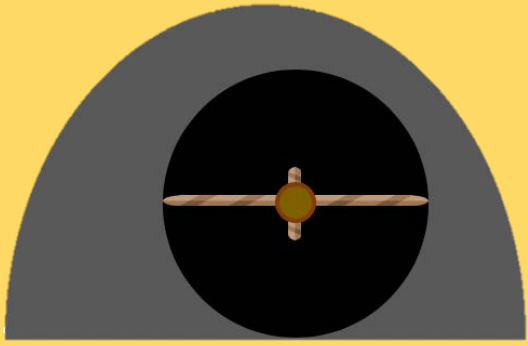
-R

+R



Abraham

**Needs a death to pay for sin**



Jesus paid the penalty of death for man's sin

**Needs to live a perfect life by God's standards**



Jesus lived a perfect life and His righteousness is imputed to man



**2 Cor. 5:21, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**



**Rom. 5:18, “Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**

**Rom. 5:19, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”**

**But Abraham did not know any of these details. He didn't even know the name of Jesus! So, how could God make him righteous?**

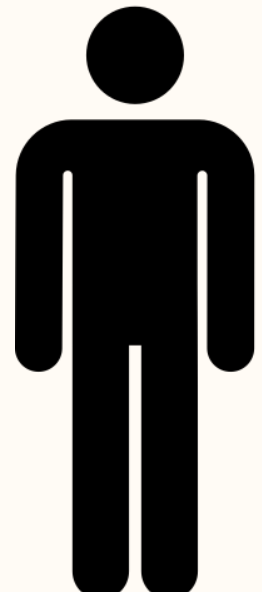
What Jesus did to bring man from "unrighteous" to "righteous".

man: unrighteous

man: righteous

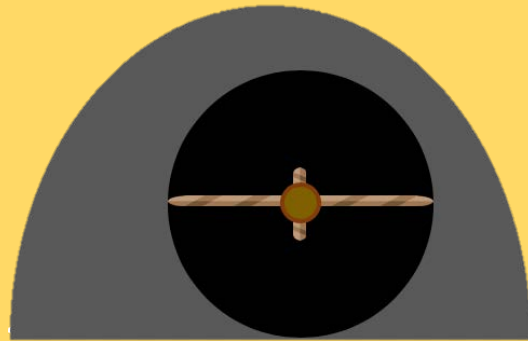
-R

+R



Abraham

Needs a death to pay for sin



Jesus paid the penalty of death for man's sin

Needs to live a perfect life by God's standards



Jesus lived a perfect life and His righteousness is imputed to man

applied to Abraham

applied to Abraham



Abraham

FAITH: Abraham believed all of God's promises about defeating sin and Satan!

**Abram made a conscious choice to believe. For years after this, Abram lived faithfully and trusted in God. And at some point, God then approached Abram and gave him a command which included the promise of blessing.**

**Gen. 12:1, “Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’”**

**Gen. 12:2, “ ‘I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.’”**

**Gen. 12:3, “ ‘I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”**

**Gen. 12:4, “So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”**

## **2. Abraham, friend of God**

**James 2:23, “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted [imputed] to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God.”**

**How did Abraham become God’s friend?**

**1. First, we must remember that before we are justified, we are sinners and our lack of righteousness keeps us from God.**

**Rom. 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”**

**Rom. 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

**Rom. 5:10, “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”**

**How was the sin problem solved?**

**Rom. 4:1, “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?”**

**Rom. 4:2, “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.**

**Rom. 4:3, “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’”**

**Rom. 4:4, “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.”**



**2. One of the consequences of Abraham's new possession of righteousness is that at the same time that he received the imputation of God's righteousness, he also received peace with God.**

**Rom. 5:10, "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."**

**Rom. 5:11, "And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."**

**3. Abraham was declared righteous by God before God gave him the promises in the covenant. But still Abraham had to learn to trust God.**